

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 266

By Fitzhugh

A RESOLUTION To recognize Coach Rick Sullivan of Haywood High School on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, It is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those educators who, in their years of work, have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm; and

WHEREAS, Coach Rick Sullivan is one such estimable person who has served with probity for twenty-nine years as a basketball coach; he has coached the past twenty-one years at Haywood High School; and

WHEREAS, A graduate of the University of Tennessee at Martin and a former collegiate athlete, Coach Sullivan came to Haywood High School following coaching stints at Kingsbury and Craigmont High Schools in Memphis; and

WHEREAS, Coach Sullivan experienced tremendous success during his coaching career, winning well over 600 games; during his twenty-one seasons at Haywood, his teams never experienced a losing season and they won more than twenty games in nineteen of those seasons; and

WHEREAS, More importantly, this estimable educator, who never missed a game during his tenure at Haywood, was instrumental in the overall development of many young men; the

vast majority of his players have translated the work ethic, determination, and character they cultivated under Coach Sullivan's direction into success in later life and have become leaders in their respective fields; and

WHEREAS, Tony Delk is a fine example of the success experienced by the young men who thrived under Coach Sullivan's mentorship; always remembering the lessons he learned in the Haywood High School gymnasium, Mr. Delk is currently enjoying a thriving career in the National Basketball Association; and

WHEREAS, During his career, Coach Rick Sullivan has earned the respect and admiration of his coaching peers and players alike; and

WHEREAS, According to former Haywood Principal Gordon Perry, "Rick Sullivan symbolizes the pinnacle of the coaching profession... His contributions to Brownsville and Haywood County will be hard to match"; and

WHEREAS, Intimately acquainted with the Haywood basketball program from years serving as its radio announcer, Greg Vanstroy said, "Rick molded his players' character through discipline and a strong work ethic. He is one of the finest and best coaches in the history of West Tennessee basketball. We're a lot better in Haywood County because Rick Sullivan was here"; and

WHEREAS, Coach Rick Sullivan has been universally praised by the basketball community of Tennessee; reflecting on Coach Sullivan's career, Ronnie Carter, Executive Director of the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association, commented, "Rick Sullivan, more than anything, represents total class in the way he's coached, in the way he's taught, and in the kind of person he is... No matter what else he does, he tries to make the best situation for his kids"; and

WHEREAS, Coach Sullivan holds a singular position in the history of Haywood High School athletics; his departure from the sidelines leaves a void that will not easily be filled; and

WHEREAS, The transition for the basketball program and the next coach will be tremendously aided by Coach Sullivan's wisdom and experience, as he will remain at Haywood as a Science teacher and will also serve as the Athletic Director; and

WHEREAS, Coach Sullivan exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that is characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, He is fortunate to share love and companionship with his wife, Freda; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his career, Coach Sullivan demonstrated a remarkable ability to motivate his student athletes to reach their potential, and his greatest and most enduring legacy is the success of the young men who matured under his tutelage; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we extend to Coach Rick Sullivan of Haywood High School our thanks for his laudable service to the youth of Tennessee and to high school basketball, and we offer our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.